Massachusetts General Hospital
Corporate & Foundation Relations
Office of Development

PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: APR 7, 2017

Please contact Corporate & Foundation Relations in the Office of Development at devcfr@mgh.harvard.edu if you wish to submit a proposal in response to any of these opportunities. Note that proposals are still routed through the standard InfoEd/Research Management process.

*Please be aware that any grant that brings in less than **15% in indirect costs (IDC)** will need to be supplemented up to the 15% equivalent by existing investigator or departmental sundry funds. Resolution of this issue must occur prior to submission of the award. Training fellowships from foundations, public charity, and non-profit organizations are excluded from this minimum IDC requirement.*

1. Clinician Scholar Educator Award, American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/Rheumatology Research Foundation

The purpose of the Clinician Scholar Educator Award is to support ACR and AHRP members seeking to develop a career in education and training, with the aim of enhancing education in the musculoskeletal and rheumatic diseases.

Award Amount: $180,000 paid over 3 years
Indirect Costs: None
Application Deadline: May 1, 2017
Website: https://www.rheumresearch.org/education-and-training-awards#CSE

2. Paula de Merieux Fellowship Training Award, American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/Rheumatology Research Foundation

This award provides support for the training of a promising rheumatology fellow who is an underrepresented minority or a woman. Its purpose is to ensure a diverse and highly-trained workforce is available to provide clinical care to people with rheumatic diseases.

This grant is awarded yearly to support a trainee who belongs to an underrepresented minority within rheumatology, or is a woman. For the purposes of this program, "underrepresented minority within rheumatology" shall mean Black, Hispanic, or Native American.

Award Amount: $50,000 for 1 year
Indirect Costs: Unpublished
Application Deadline: May 1, 2017

Website: http://www.rheumresearch.org/education-and-training-awards

3. Scientist Development Award, American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/Rheumatology Research Foundation
This award is designed for individuals in the early stages of their career or those without significant prior research experience who plan to embark on careers in biomedical and/or clinical research in arthritis and rheumatic diseases. The purpose of this award is to provide support for a structured research training program for rheumatologists or health professionals in the field of rheumatology.

This mentored career development program provides support for salary as well as research and/or education costs for the early years of research training in an environment where trainees may interact with established investigators in a clinical unit involved in the care of rheumatic diseases. The goal of funding at this level is to provide an opportunity for young scientists to embark on focused research and research training that will allow them to be competitive for the next level of career development awards. Through this award, the Foundation provides a means for ensuring more qualified, highly-trained investigators in the field of rheumatology.

Award Amount: Up to $225,000 paid over 3 years
Indirect Costs: None
Application Deadline: Jul 3, 2017
Website: http://www.rheumresearch.org/career-development-research-awards#SDA

4. ASAF Fellowship Research Award, American Surgical Association Foundation (ASAF)
The purpose of the American Surgical Association Foundation Fellowship is to support and encourage gifted young surgeons who choose careers in investigation and academic surgery. During the Fellowship years, the Awardee should have a primary role in research and teaching. It is expected that the Fellow will have a faculty position following the Fellowship in the Department of Surgery of the sponsoring institution.

Award Amount: $75,000 for 1 year
Indirect Costs: None
Application Deadline: Jun 15, 2017
Website: http://americansurgical.org/awards_Fellowship.cgi

5. Infectious Diseases: Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease (PATH), Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF)
The PATH award is intended to support accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to study pathogenesis, with a focus on the interplay between human and microbial biology, shedding light on how human and microbial systems are affected by their encounters.

The program provides opportunities for assistant professors to bring multidisciplinary approaches to the study of human infectious diseases. The goal of the program is to provide opportunities for accomplished investigators still early in their careers to study what happens at the points where the systems of humans and potentially infectious agents connect. The program supports research that sheds light on the fundamentals that affect the outcomes of these encounters: how colonization, infection, commensalism, and other relationships play out at levels ranging from molecular interactions to systemic ones.

The awards are intended to give recipients the freedom and flexibility to pursue new avenues of inquiry, stimulating higher risk research projects that hold potential for significantly advancing understanding of how infectious diseases work and how health is maintained.

Award Amount: $500,000 paid over 5 years
Indirect Costs: None
Preliminary Proposal Deadline: Jul 14, 2017
Website: http://www.bwfund.org/pages/105/Investigators-in-the-Pathogenesis-of-Infectious-Disease/

6. Spinal Cord Injury Research on the Translational Spectrum (SCIRTS) - Neilsen SCIRTS Pilot Research Grants, Craig H. Neilsen Foundation
Spinal Cord Injury Research on the Translational Spectrum (SCIRTS) portfolio funding is intended to support research designed to improve understanding and advance the treatment of acute and chronic SCI and to fill gaps in the field, including mechanistic, preclinical, translational and/or clinical studies.

Neilsen SCIRTS Pilot Research Grants cultivate new lines of research and novel projects. These grants are intended to support pilot studies that lay essential groundwork, allow the PI to test the feasibility of novel methods and procedures and/or collect new data that can lead to or enhance larger-scale studies. Criteria for Pilot grants include the scientific merit of the project, the innovative nature of the proposed research and the likelihood that success will move the SCI field forward.

Award Amount: $300,000 paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs: 10%
LOI Deadline: May 10, 2017
Website: http://chnfoundation.org/spinal-cord-injury-research-on-the-translational-spectrum/

7. Spinal Cord Injury Research on the Translational Spectrum (SCIRTS) - SCIRTS Senior Research Grants, Craig H. Neilsen Foundation

Spinal Cord Injury Research on the Translational Spectrum (SCIRTS) portfolio funding is intended to support research designed to improve understanding and advance the treatment of acute and chronic SCI and to fill gaps in the field, including mechanistic, preclinical, translational and/or clinical studies.

SCIRTS Senior Research Grants focus on highly innovative projects by established contributors to explore new areas of SCI research or fill important gaps in the SCI field. The goal is not to substitute for federal funding, but to use Neilsen Foundation funds to encourage cutting-edge ideas and approaches that have great potential, despite some additional risk. The importance of the research goal should balance the risk due to the early stage of innovation. Criteria include the innovative nature of the proposed research, the likelihood that success will move the field forward, and a history of productivity and significant contributions by the investigator.

NOTE: Early phase clinical trials of novel investigational drug or cell/biologic interventions under regulation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are limited to the Senior Grant category. Postdoctoral fellows may participate in an approved trial supported by the Mentor's other funding.

Award Amount: $600,000 paid over 3 years
Indirect Costs: 10%
LOI Deadline: May 12, 2017
Website: http://chnfoundation.org/spinal-cord-injury-research-on-the-translational-spectrum/

8. Taub Foundation Grants Program for Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Research, Health Resources in Action (HRiA)/The Medical Foundation

The Taub Foundation Grants Program for Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Research was created to support high-impact, innovative translational research to understand the underlying causes of MDS and to advance its treatment and prevention. The Program specifically focuses on MDS research, exclusive of AML and MPN. The Program supports translational research that includes bidirectional efforts, building upon research in the laboratory and therapeutic outcomes in the clinic. Studies focusing on molecular genetics, epigenetics, splicing factors, stem cells, the microenvironment and novel therapeutic targets relevant to MDS are encouraged.

The Taub Program supports independent investigators at all stages of their careers. Awards are not restricted to investigators currently working in MDS. Applications from investigators in other fields and collaborative efforts are encouraged. Proposals focused on the progression of MDS to AML are not within the scope of this funding.

Award Amount: $600,000 paid over 3 years
Indirect Costs: 10%
Preliminary Proposal Deadline: May 19, 2017
Website: https://hria.org/tmf/taub/

9. HD Human Biology Project, Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA)
The goal of the program is to offer support for investigator-initiated research directed to better understand the biology of Huntington's disease (HD) as it occurs in humans. The research projects and observations resulting from them should have the potential to directly impact the lives of patients or help guide future drug development for HD.

HDSA is interested in sponsoring innovative lines of inquiry of human HD patient data that will shed light on the most proximal biological events caused by the mutant huntingtin gene. All research proposals must incorporate a patient-centric focus to understanding HD. Some examples of the types of projects the HDSA Scientific Advisory Board would like to see addressed by the international research community are listed below. These examples are not intended to be an exhaustive listing.

1. Translation of HD animal model observations to patients.
2. Biomarker discovery/development
3. Clinical scales/assessment development
4. Unbiased Systems Biology studies using data generated from human HD biological samples to uncover proximal biological pathways affected in human HD.
5. Human-focused drug target identification and validation
6. Research using innovative technologies to improve of quality of life and care of HD patients and caregivers.

The research to be supported by HDSA must meet certain criteria:

- First, the proposals must involve the use of HD patients, patient data and samples or human HD model systems to maximize the impact on the execution of future clinical trials and/or drug discovery programs for HD. For example, this could be achieved by proposing to identify a new biomarker in the blood of patients that could be monitored to assess efficacy of a novel therapeutic.
- The research proposals should involve a collaboration with investigators/clinicians at a reputable HD clinic anywhere around the world.

Award Amount: $150,000 paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs: None
LOI Deadline: May 22, 2017
Website: http://hdsa.org/hd-research/hd-human-biology-project/

10. Dr. William E. Paul Distinguished Innovator Awards in Lupus and Autoimmunity, Lupus Research Institute (LRI) New

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI) invites applications for its Dr. William E. Paul Distinguished Innovator Awards in Lupus and Immunology, a global program that will provide outstanding scientists with substantial support for up to four years to conduct novel research into the fundamental causes of lupus and so provide new directions toward a cure or prevention.

Advances across many disciplines have led to novel treatments that aim to suppress the manifestations of lupus. Yet few interventions are being developed that seek to reverse or prevent the disease. LRI Distinguished Innovators will address this gap by pioneering research into the fundamental, causative pathways of lupus.

In pursuit of this goal, the LRI welcomes novel, hypothesis- or discovery-driven proposals in human and/or animal model based lupus research. The research proposal must aim to uncover the fundamental causes of lupus and present a compelling vision of how the discovery would lay the groundwork for a potential cure, prevention, or highly effective therapy.

The expert review panel will judge applications primarily on the novelty and potential of the research proposal, and the strengths and track record of the investigator. Emphasis will be on the rationale for the hypothesis rather than the amount of preliminary data. Continuations of long-term research projects will not be considered.

Successful applicants will be outstanding investigators who have demonstrated creativity and productivity in their field of research. We encourage applications from investigators in diverse disciplines including, but not limited to, immunology, genetics, molecular-, cell- and systems biology.

Award Amount: $1 million paid over 4 years
Indirect Costs: None
Application Deadline: May 24, 2017
Website: http://www.lupusresearch.org/lupus-research/for-researchers.html#.WMasbPJWU-k

11. Inflammation Biomarkers for Parkinson's Disease, Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) New

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research seeks to support research that will develop new or improve upon existing biomarker tools for neuroinflammation/peripheral inflammation in Parkinson's disease (PD).

The specific goals of this initiative are to:

1. facilitate the development of biomarker measures that can be utilized for novel target validation,
2. assess pathological progression or phenoconversion, or

3. identify inflammation paradigms unique to PD. Proposed biomarkers should facilitate objective decisions to validate a particular target or target efficacy marker (downstream readouts of successful target modification), improve the ability to enrich subject populations in clinical trials and/or determine whether experimental treatments are modifying the course of the disease, its symptoms or its progression.

PURPOSE

In addition to facilitating target validation and clinical trial design, biomarkers aid interpretation of trial results, even if the drug fails to demonstrate desired efficacy. Therefore, MJFF aims to support development of neuroinflammation/inflammation biomarkers to garner knowledge that is critically important to the PD field - from a drug's mechanism of action and its relevance to disease biology to understanding the biological basis underlying patient heterogeneity in drug response. Within the broad scope of inflammation and immune signaling in PD, the Foundation seeks funding proposals utilizing human clinical biosamples or tissues that are focused on the following modalities and subtopics:

Companion Biomarkers

- Validation of novel neuroinflammation/inflammation biomarkers for PD should be evaluated in relation to other established, non-inflammation markers that are meaningful to PD (e.g., alpha-synuclein, GBA, LRRK2, BDNF, etc.), as well as relevant clinical measures of PD (e.g., MDS UPDRS scores)
- Analysis and sharing of clinical data from existing, or proposed studies that will be publically available for research purposes
- Advanced analytics on existing datasets

Immunophenotyping/Phenoconversion/Biochemical Assays

- Identification and validation of a neuroinflammation/peripheral inflammation endophenotype that identifies a specific, chronic inflammation "signature" for PD or that enables quantitative assessment of PD pathology/pathophysiology or disease progression
- Development of target-based, biochemical or genetic assays that could be utilized in clinical trials to select subjects or understand the impact of novel treatments on the proposed mechanism (including development of new assays/assay platforms to analyze tissues or bio fluids or refinement/validation of existing assays)

Impact of aging on inflammation/neuroinflammation and relevance to PD

- As aging is a major risk factor for PD, studies aimed at elucidating how aging may impact immune signaling and thereby modify neuroinflammation/peripheral inflammation pathways in ways that may impinge on neurodegeneration in PD are of exceptional interest

The following types of biomarker studies are not encouraged under this initiative:

- Proposals that do not contain any preliminary data in human biofluids or tissue (novel imagingtracer development projects are a potential exception to this rule)
- Proposals that do not contain validation plans in human biosamples or tissue

Award Amount: Up to $300,000 for 1-2 years
Indirect Costs: 25%
Preliminary Proposal Deadline: May 31, 2017
Website: https://www.michaeljfox.org/research/grant-detail.php?id=32

12. NAF Pioneer SCA Translational Research Awards, National Ataxia Foundation (NAF)
NAF invites proposals, under a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process, to award a grant focusing on research investigations that will facilitate the development of treatments for the Spinocerebellar Ataxias (SCAs).

Award Amount: $100,000 for 1 year
Indirect Costs: None
LOI Deadline: Aug 15, 2017
Website: http://www.ataxia.org/research/ataxia-research-grants.aspx

13. Prospective Clinical Research Grant, Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF)
This Funding Opportunity Announcement solicits investigator-initiated clinical research proposals by investigators who have demonstrated a sustained interest in research and excellence in their training. The objective of this grant is to stimulate clinical research and provide funding for promising prospective studies of a high clinical importance in orthopaedic surgery.

Clinical relevance of all proposals must be clearly noted in the abstract and specific aims and be obvious from the title and the study design. All proposed projects are expected to generate results that have a practical application. It is expected that upon completion of the proposed project, the principal investigator will be well poised to pursue NIH/DOD or the equivalent large-scale funding to continue to advance the area of research.

Award Amount: $150,000 paid over 3 years
Indirect Costs: None
LOI Deadline: Aug 15, 2017
Website: http://www.oref.org/grants-and-awards/grant-programs/general-grants

14. ASPIRE Dermatology Research Awards, Pfizer, Inc./Advancing Science through Pfizer - Investigator Research Exchange (ASPIRE Research Awards)

The mission of the ASPIRE program is to fund high quality basic science, translational and clinical research through a competitive grants program that advances medical knowledge in the epidemiology, pathogenesis and treatment of selected diseases. This ASPIRE program is part of Pfizer's commitment to supporting research in inflammatory and immune-mediated diseases in Dermatology.

Research areas of interest in dermatology are as follows:

- Clinical research related to inflammatory or immune-mediated diseases in dermatology
- Approaches to improving communication among patients and healthcare providers (e.g., enduring materials, technological advancements, or web-based teaching programs)
- Health economic and outcomes research related to inflammatory or immune-mediated diseases in dermatology
- Basic research in the etiology of inflammatory or immune-mediated diseases in dermatology including clarification of the intracellular immune cascade in the skin
- Exploration of the role of PDE4 inhibition in inflammatory or immune mediated skin disease
- Exploration of the role of PDE4 inhibition in itch
- Use of clinical evaluation tools to document the severity of inflammatory or immune mediated skin disease and/or the impact of these conditions on quality of life or other patient reported outcomes
- Approaches to improving adherence to topical therapy for atopic dermatitis
- Approaches to improving management of inflammatory skin diseases (e.g. early therapy, prevention of flares, long-term maintenance, sequential treatment, bimodal therapy, etc.)
- Research related to, but not limited to, the use of topical PDE4 inhibition in the treatment of inflammatory or immune-mediated skin disorders with an unmet therapeutic need

Award Amount: $150,000 paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs: 28%
Application Deadline: May 5, 2017
Website: http://www.aspireresearch.org/dermatology/index.html

15. PRF Seeks Proposals for Research on Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS, or Progeria), Progeria Research Foundation (PRF)

PRF is the only organization in the world dedicated to discovering treatments and the cure for Progeria and its aging-related disorders. Progeria is a rare, fatal, "premature aging" disease that affects children, who die of heart disease (heart attacks or stroke) at an average age of 14 years - the same heart disease that affects millions of normal aging adults (atherosclerosis). Scientific studies have solidified biological links between Progeria, heart disease and aging. Investigation

of the disease mechanism Progeria will help not only children with Progeria, but has implications for heart attacks, strokes and other aging-related conditions.

PRF will consider proposals in all areas directly relevant to Progeria. Two priority areas are listed below:

1. Discovery of biological markers of disease in HGPS that can be assessed in human and/or mouse samples. Highest priority will be given to those markers that can be assayed in easily obtainable human samples such as blood, urine, and cheek swabs. In addition, proposals that explore biomarker relevance to disease process and/or change in markers with disease treatment are encouraged.
2. Discovery and/or testing of candidate treatment compounds in both cell based and mouse models of HGPS. Of note, proposals should test compounds in a progerin-producing mouse model as the priority. Comparisons to other mouse models of disease, such as ZMPSTE24-/- and other non-progerin producing mouse models are acceptable, but only as a comparison to progerin-producing models.

Awards are given in 3 categories. Projects must have specific relevance to HGPS, and show promise for contributing to the scientific or clinical advancement in this field of study.

1. Innovator Awards: The aim of this Award is to allow an investigator to embark on new lines of investigation, and to produce enough preliminary data to be competitive for longer-term funding by NIH and/or other agencies.
2. Established Investigator Awards: These awards are designed for advanced investigations in areas critical to the goals of PRF by senior investigators established either in the field of Progeria or a field that can be directly applied to Progeria.
3. Specialty Awards: Specialty awards are for smaller, more technology-driven projects, e.g., sequencing, screening potential drugs, obtaining cell lines (including IPSCs) and preparation of antibodies.

Key Words
Progeria, progeroid, aging, genetics, Lamin A, genetic disease, atherosclerosis, heart disease, stroke, cardiovascular disease, Werner syndrome, senescence, pediatric disease, stem cell, mouse model, telomere, LMNA, chromatin, translational science, progeroid syndrome, restrictive dermopathy, mandibuloacral dysplasia, laminopathy

Award Amount: Awards are given in 3 categories with varying funding levels and length of time of up to $100,000 per year, for up to three years. Funding levels are:

- Innovator Awards: 2-year awards of up to $75,000 per year.
- Established Investigator Awards: Funding is for up to 3 years and up to $100,000 per year. Renewal for a third year will require that:
  a. The Principal Investigator demonstrate substantial progress and commitment to the field, for example by applying for at least one major grant to continue Progeria work. Examples of major grants include NIH RO1 or Ellison Senior Scholar funding.

b. The Principal Investigator has submitted a manuscript on the Progeria work accomplished in the first two years.

- Specialty Awards: Funding amounts will range from $5,000-$50,000 and the length of the project is usually 1 year or less. Funding amount and duration may increase for a project that addresses a very high and immediate need to The Progeria Research Foundation.

Indirect Costs: If an institution has a strict, written policy which does not allow researchers to apply to granting organizations that do not pay indirect costs, and if there have been no exceptions to that policy, PRF will negotiate a minimal rate. The policy must be provided for review.
Proposal Deadline: Sep 19, 2017
Website: http://progeriaresearch.org/application-deadlines.html

16. Postdoctoral Research Fellowships, Helen Hay Whitney Foundation

The Foundation supports early postdoctoral research training in all basic biomedical sciences. To attain its ultimate goal of increasing the number of imaginative, well-trained and dedicated medical scientists, the Foundation grants financial support of sufficient duration to help further the careers of young men and women engaged in biological or medical research. The Foundation expects that fellowship training will be obtained in an academic setting. The selection of a commercial or industrial laboratory for the training experience is not acceptable.

Award Amount: $163,000 paid over 3 years
Indirect Costs: Unpublished
Application Deadline: Jun 30, 2017
Website: http://hhwf.org/research-fellowship/